



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices were unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady in the East, but steady to fully steady elsewhere. Retail demand was mostly light to fair with few features. Food service was light to fairly good, best into fast food where promotions were effective. Supplies were in good balance to well cleared with heavier sizes more available. In the parts structure, breast items were in good balance to tight, and dark meat was at least adequate with limited movement. Wings were sufficient with lighter sizes often barely adequate. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at weights in a full range.

Final report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 3/15/04-03/19/04 (cents per lb)

AREAS	US GRADE A (Includes branded product)		COMPOSITE	
	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	LOADS	WTD AVG
Delivered to First Receivers				
Bos/New Eng	73.00-76.00	75.00	12	69.94
Chicago	69.00-72.00	72.16	40	74.24
Ohio Cities	TFEWR	—	—	75.15
Denver	77.50	77.35	15	77.71
Detroit	71.00-73.00	73.67	12	75.83
Los Angeles	78.00	78.24	58	79.64
New York	75.00-77.00	75.58	24	74.42
Philadelphia	75.50-77.00	75.92	12	73.50
Pittsburgh	76.00-78.00	76.15	13	74.94
St. Louis	72.00	71.50	23	70.96
San Francisco	78.50	79.11	32	78.33

Composite Weighted Average

Loads	03/15/04	Change/Last Wk	03/08/04	03/17/03
616	75.30	-0.62	75.92	60.89

WOG BROILERS (without giblets) - prices paid per lb delvd to first receivers in trucklot and less than trucklot quantities.

REGIONS	MAJORITY	WTD AV	LOADS
East	75.00-77.00	75.96	32
Central	71.00-78.00	77.27	75
West	81.00-82.00	81.25	43

Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent

Mississippi	72.50-74.00	73.30	81
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GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 72.75 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

LOADS	RANGE	MONDAY FINAL WTD AVG FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT
1,053	68.00-79.00	71.84

The Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed final weighted average prices on ice packed parts:

ITEM	WTD AVG (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	233.50	1,396
BREASTS - B/S	201.50	5,539
BREASTS - WHOLE	104.50	1,924
THIGH MEAT - B/S	122.50	1,054
LEG QUARTERS	35.50	8,134
WINGS	125.00	2,959

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

NORTHEAST REGION BROILER/FRYER Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was about fair at best entering the week. Offerings of the 3 pound and lighter birds ranged balanced to adequate. The heavier weights were at least adequate to available. Retail and distributive movement was light to no better than fair. The market tone was mostly steady. In the parts complex, breast items and tenderloins were tight and commanding premiums. Dark meat items were adequate to available. Wings were balanced.

SOUTHERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trade sentiment mixed, but at least steady. Retail demand was light to fair with few features, and food service was in a full range, strongest for fast food promotions. Supplies of all sizes were sufficient with wogs in a closer balance. In the parts structure, breast items were barely adequate to tight of a continuously active call. Dark meat was readily available with limited interest, wings were adequate and moving.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Final majority prices were unchanged from last week. Whole body product reported trading at unchanged to higher prices. Offerings generally adequate and confidently held. Retailer demand was moderate to fairly good, best where increased interest noted in some areas where features planned for later in the week. Dealers reported moderate weekend carryovers. Trading reported on parts was mixed with leg quarters barely steady, breast items firm and wings steady. Reported trading activity on parts for this week's delivery: leg quarters 34.5- 38.5 bulk and 4/10s 37-38.5, breast bone-in at 108-116 and boneless 190-198, wings at 126-127, boneless leg meat 87-95. The Los Angeles negotiated WOG weighted average was 81.00 up 2.96 from last week's level with the volume reported at 27 loads down 4 percent.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYER Final majority prices were unchanged; Ohio cities TFEWR from last Monday's final. Whole broiler/fryer market tone was steady to fully steady. Offerings light for like buyer interest. Retail demand was light to occasionally fair. Food service movement was light to fairly good, mostly moderate. Floor stocks adequate to long. Weights desirable to at times heavy. Supplies of drums and thighs varied, leg quarters available, and light weight wings, tenders and breast cuts were tight to in close balance. Trade interest was marginal, best for wings and tenders. Market tone was steady to firm on white meat cuts and about steady on the balance.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was about moderate. Offerings were balanced to well cleared on the 2.50 and 3.00 pound sizes; fully adequate on the 3.50 and 4.00 sizes. Live supplies were moderate; weights varied in a full range of light to heavy. Processor schedules were moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 76 to 87 cents. Trade sentiment was mostly steady. In the parts complex, breasts items were in good balance to well cleared. Leg items were fully adequate. Wings were in fairly good balance.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA.

BRANDED U.S. GRADE A	
RANGE	66-91
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	78.83
NO. OF BOXES	7,674

*7 of 7 plants reporting.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS Trucklot buying activity was cautious and selective entering the week. Offerings of breast items and tenderloins remained in short supply. Dark meat cuts were at least adequate. Wings ranged balanced to adequate for current needs. Retail and distributive movement was generally fair at best. The market tone was fully steady to firm on breast items and tenderloins, at least steady on wings and no better than steady on dark meat cuts.

ICE-PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER POUND

ITEM	NEGOTIATED	CURRENT	WTD	VOLUME
	TRADING		AVG	/LBS
BREAST - B/S		205	194.42	625,988
TENDERLOINS		225	212.16	111,520
BREAST - WITH RIBS	106-107		111.52	92,480
BREAST - LINE RUN	106		107.22	57,120
LEGS	43-44		45.66	396,680
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	33-34		30.16	587,182
DRUMSTICKS	32-33		40.39	136,900
THIGHS	42-43		48.46	56,180
B/S THIGHS	116-117		115.59	38,360
WINGS (WHOLE)	115-116		123.74	136,360
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12		12.01	32,400
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40		33.52	12,960
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65		64.17	22,640

INCLUDES NEW YORK CITY METROPOLITAN AREA, NORTHERN NEW JERSEY, MASSACHUSETTS, CONNECTICUT, RHODE ISLAND, AND PENNSYLVANIA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ARKANSAS BROILER/FRYER PARTS F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

ITEM	LBS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WT. AVG
BREAST - B/S	3,106	186.00-239.00	194-200	198.80
TENDERLOINS	248	190.00-259.00	227-235	228.91
BREAST - WITH RIBS	170	104.00-112.00	106-108	107.59
FRONT HALVES	218	95.00-105.00	96-100	97.66
LEGS	NO TRADING - REPORTED			
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	1,326	31.00-36.00	31	31.02
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,178	33.00-39.00	33-34	33.26
WINGS (WHOLE)	NO TRADING - REPORTED			
DRUMSTICKS	NO TRADING - REPORTED			
THIGHS	1,126	34.00-46.00	44-45	44.61

**ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)
FOR MONDAY 15-Mar-04**

	ESTIMATE	ACTUAL	AVG WTS	ACTUAL	AVG WTS
	03/15	03/11	03/11	03/08	03/04
ALA	3,971	3,815	5.14	3,750	5.14
ARK	5,561	5,163	4.94	5,313	4.92
DELMARVA	2,145	2,131	5.37	2,175	5.44
KY-LA-TN	2,021	1,993	4.96	2,011	4.96
MISS	2,974	3,013	5.32	3,064	5.34
NC	2,452	2,397	6.26	2,422	6.27
TEXAS	2,256	2,347	5.10	2,243	4.93
TOTAL	21,380	20,859	5.25	20,978	5.23
MON	21,380(A)			20,978 (A)	

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 15-Mar 2004 is estimated to be 31,987,000 up 1.61 percent from a week ago and up 2.54 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,480,000 last year 31,194,000)

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	858	198.00-266.00	200-205	208.41
TENDERLOINS	211	226.00-269.00	226-230	237.86
BREAST - LINE RUN	80	100.00-105.50	101-104	104.75
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	88	42.00-60.00	43-44	43.64
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	560	30.00-33.00	-	30.79
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	915	31.00-39.00	34-37	34.56
WINGS (WHOLE)	293	122.00-126.00	122-124	125.32
WINGS (CUT)	519	136.00-144.00	139-142	139.46
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	100	106.00-127.00	-	120.40

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR MARCH 15, 2004 — F.O.B. DOCK.

TODAY'S	5-DAY
RANGE	AVERAGE
65.00 - 72.50	69.68
	68.82

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYER ICE-PACKED POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES DELIVERED TO IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, AND WI WEEK OF 15-MAR-2004 TO 19-MAR-2004, CENTS PER POUND

Price Per Lb.	Mostly
BREAST - B/S	191.00 - 211.00 194.00 - 204.00
BREAST - LINE RUN	98.00 - 119.00 -
LEGS	31.00 - 55.00 -
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	32.00 - 36.00 33.00- 35.00
DRUMSTICKS	32.00 - 47.00 -
THIGHS	45.00 - 56.00 -
WINGS (WHOLE)	120.00 - 130.00 123.00 - 126.00
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	12.00 - 20.00 -
LIVERS	30.00 - 45.00 -
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	35.00 - 45.00 -

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY,
DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

	<u>RANGE</u>
WOGS 2# & UP - WHOLE	90
WOGS 2# & UP - CUT UP 8&9 PIECES	93-97

FROZEN HENS 5# & UP
FROZEN DUCKS
FROZEN SQUABS 585-600

**DELIVERED TO RETAILERS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
(L.A. AREA)**

FRESH FRYERS	93-99
ROASTERS 4# & UP	95-105
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	71-77
DUCKS	
RABBITS-WHOLE	
RABBITS-CUT UP	

**SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY
DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	102-103
	DRY PACK	104-106
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	109
	DRY PACK	105
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	93
	DRY PACK	93-95
DUCKS		152-175

EASTERN REGION MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN

F.O.B. SHIPPER DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN THE EASTERN REGION IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND, DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

12-MAR-2004

CHICKEN — PRICES — VOLUME —
(Cents per Pound)

FAT	CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS					
RANGE		-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE					

CHICKEN WITH SKIN ADDED — PRICES — VOLUME —
(Cents per Pound)

FAT	CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS					
RANGE	13.50-16.00		-	920,000	520,000
WTD AVERAGE	14.91				
15-20%					
RANGE	15.50-19.00	12.50-14.00		1,588,000	728,000
WTD AVERAGE	17.36	12.87			
20% OR MORE					
RANGE		12.00		200,000	-
WTD AVERAGE		12.00			

* INCLUDES THE STATES of CT, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, VA, VT, WV

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Majority prices were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was moderate to at least moderate. Offerings were generally adequate. Processing schedules were mostly normal. Supplies of finished product were clearing satisfactorily. The undertone was at least steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *
FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 15-MAR-04

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	6.25-10.25	8.75-9.25	8.91
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT		
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT		

*WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

CENTRAL REGION MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN

F.O.B. SHIPPER DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN THE CENTRAL REGION IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND, DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

12-MAR-2004

CHICKEN — PRICES — VOLUME —
(Cents per Pound)

FAT	CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS					
RANGE		-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE					

CHICKEN, WITH SKIN ADDED — PRICES — VOLUME —
(Cents per Pound)

FAT	CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS					
RANGE		16.00	13.00-15.00	171,600	-
WTD AVERAGE		16.00	14.24		
15-20%					
RANGE		13.00-14.00	11.00-13.75	1,660,000	1,007,200
WTD AVERAGE		13.50	11.87		
20% OR MORE					
RANGE		-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE					

* INCLUDES THE STATES of AL, AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MI, MN, MO, MS, ND, NE, OK, OH, SD, TN, TX, WI

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Prices were generally unchanged compared to the past week. Demand was moderate for fully adequate supplies of spent heavy hens. Finished sales were fair. Schedules were normal. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *
PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 15-MAR-04

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	6.25-12	8.5-9.25	9.35

*WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

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